

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY CASTING LIGHT ON SPENDING IN ELECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5175) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign influence in Federal elections, to prohibit government contractors from making expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish additional disclosure requirements with respect to spending in such elections, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the DISCLOSE Act, legislation to boost transparency and accountability in U.S. elections.

The January, 5–4 Supreme Court decision in the Citizen's United v. FEC case allows for unprecedented corporate and union influence in our elections, overturning many years of banning these groups from spending their general treasury funds on political expenditures in Federal elections.

With the 2010 election season months away, it is imperative that we not let individual voices be drowned out by billions of dollars in special interest funds. For this reason, I am pleased to have worked with Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD) on the bill before us today, the DISCLOSE Act.

Critics have argued that this legislation stifles free speech in election advertising, when in reality, under this bill, campaign advertisements will continue as before, only now, we will know who is spending money to air the ad. Opponents have also claimed that the bill gives special treatment to unions over corporations, yet the bill requires the same disclosure for both unions and corporations alike. I believe in protecting the right of every American to know who is behind the advertisements they see every campaign season, and under the disclosure requirements in this bill, they will know this information.

The DISCLOSE Act will require corporations and unions to disclose to the FEC and to the American people who is funding their campaign advertisements; and it also requires a CEO, Union Leader, or leader of any other covered organization, to "stand by their ad" and say they approve a campaign message, just like candidates are currently required.

I have worked to ensure all groups that seek to influence the outcome of elections—both unions and corporations—are equally subject to the same disclosure and disclaimer provisions set forth in this bill. As a longtime supporter of strengthening the nation's campaign finance laws, I remain deeply concerned with efforts to carve out exemptions from this requirement for certain groups, and continue to oppose creating loopholes that will weaken

them. For this reason, I opposed the Manager's Amendment.

The DISCLOSE Act will help bring greater transparency to political advertising, and I encourage my colleagues to support passage of this important measure.

## INTRODUCTION OF STOP OIL SPILLS ACT

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, since the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon and the death of 11 workers on April 20, 2010, the American people have watched helplessly as millions of barrels of oil have spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. It has become obvious that the technologies to drill ever deeper for oil and gas have developed rapidly, but the technologies needed to prevent or stop catastrophic spills have not. That is why I am introducing the Stop Oil Spills Act, or the SOS Act. If we are going to drill ultra-deep, we must be able to make that drilling ultra-safe and to stop any spill ultra-fast.

The SOS Act repeals Sections 999A through 999H of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and establishes in its place the "Innovative Offshore Drilling Safety Technology Program." The bill takes \$50 million per year in oil and gas royalty payments, which currently are directed to a 2005 Energy Policy Act program that subsidizes industry development of deepwater drilling technology, and redirects those funds to a Department of Energy grant program to develop next-generation technologies to prevent or stop offshore drilling spills. This new program will help ensure that we avoid future offshore well blowouts like the one that led to the current disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, and that in the event of a blowout, that we have the right tools on hand to stop the spill quickly and effectively.

The latest estimates are that between 35,000 and 60,000 barrels of oil are spewing into our territorial waters every day. While BP gave assurance that it could respond to a spill of more than four times this amount, the reality is quite different. In attempt after failed attempt to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf, from "top kill" to "top hat" to "junk shot", BP has demonstrated that it is not prepared to deal with the consequences of a deepwater well blowout with such great pressures and depths. With other companies' spill response plans virtually mirroring those of BP's, it appears that the industry as a whole is equally unprepared.

Over the last three years, the five largest independent oil producers amassed nearly \$289 billion dollars in profits, invested a total of \$39 billion to explore for new oil and gas deposits, and invested more than \$10 billion in research and development. And yet over that time, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, and BP invested an average of just \$20 million per year

in research and development on safety, accident prevention, and spill response technologies and capabilities. BP CEO Tony Hayward's admission that his company lacks the tools to respond to the current spill is the direct result of a pattern of investment that prioritizes ultra-deep drilling over ultra-safe drilling.

The SOS Act will not increase costs to taxpayers. The bill is paid for by redirecting royalty payments that are now being used to subsidize industry development of deepwater drilling technologies, something that industry has the resources and incentives to perform on its own. The SOS Act will ensure that the technologies we will need to respond to the next oil spill are being developed and tested with the Federal government's support and guidance.

The bill requires the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, to establish a program within six months to provide awards to support the development, demonstration, and commercialization of innovative technologies to prevent, stop, or capture large-scale accidental discharges of oil or other hydrocarbons from offshore oil and gas drilling operations, including deep-water and ultra-deepwater operations.

The awards will focus on new technologies or innovative improvements to existing technologies. These include blowout preventers, secondary control systems, remotely operated vehicles or technologies to stop or capture hydrocarbons from offshore wells. The bill directs the Secretary to select projects on a competitive basis, based primarily on the potential for commercialization of the relevant technology and the potential to enhance industry's capacity to prevent, stop or contain a large-scale spill from offshore drilling operations.

The program will be carried out in accordance with an annual plan prepared by the Secretary that takes into consideration recommendations from a Technical Advisory Committee established by the bill, as well as recommendations from the independent commission established by the President to investigate the Deepwater Horizon spill and the existing Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research. The annual plan shall be transmitted annually to Congress and made available on the Internet.

Finally, the bill establishes a Stop Oil Spills (SOS) Fund in the U.S. Treasury and moves funds from the existing industry research and development subsidy program from the Energy Policy Act of 2005 into this new Fund. For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2017, from any Federal royalties, rents, and bonuses derived from Federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leases issued under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, \$50,000,000 shall be deposited into the Fund. Monies in the Oil SOS Fund shall be available to the Secretary for obligation without fiscal year limitation and up to five percent of the monies may cover the costs of administering the program.

We will continue to be susceptible to the risk of deepwater blowouts and hydrocarbon

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